

MONTEMEZZI OPERA ACCORDED OVATION

"The Love of Three Kings,"
With Pavlova Ballet Russe,
Charm Belasco Audience.

Montemezzi, composer of "L'Amore del Tre Re" ("The Love of Three Kings"), has been acclaimed the most significant figure in the Italian music world since the advent of Puccini. And Washington was privileged last evening to hear this masterpiece and to accord it a veritable ovation at its first presentation in this city, when the Boston Grand Opera Company gave it at the Belasco Theater with a cast of such super-excellence and an environment of such high art that it stands foremost among the notable productions of this organization's brief season here. In the ballet, too, that followed it, the Pavlova Ballet Russe gave a quint and, altogether charming dance pantomime, "L'Ecole en Crinoline," by Mrs. Christian Hemmick, of this city, for the first time on any stage.

A story of deep tragedy, "The Love of Three Kings" is lofty in its sentiment and noble in its music. The verse is by Sen Benelli, who is called the greatest dramatic poet of Italy today. With such an inspiration, Montemezzi has created a music drama that is built along the form of which Wagner was the law-giver and with no relation to the Italian Puccini. Montemezzi's music is all his own, with the heroic mold of Wagner, yet with a beauty and glow, a sinuousness and vitality that belongs to his southern land.

Four master roles control the opera, and these were given irreproachably by Louisa Villani, Giovanni Zonatiello, George Baklanoff and Jose Mardones. Villani's voice has a golden glow in it, it is so warm and rich and radiant. She was creator of the role of Flora in the world's premiere of this opera about two years ago, bringing to the character of the queen who was so deeply loved by three kings an interpretation of the highest order, a queenliness of beauty and an emotional stress that told the conflict in her breast over her love for her true love, the king of her native land; her loyalty to her noble husband, and her respect for the blind old king, that superb tower of strength who brings about three deaths only to be left, as he says at the close of the tragedy, "Alone in the shadow." Zonatiello, in the role of the lover, was truly great. With the full vigor of a tenor robusto, he yet had such

varied beauty in all he did that his voice was wonderfully mellow and lovely through the tenderness of his lovemaking to the most impassioned heights of his love and his despair. His music was exquisitely gaining as the possibilities of the drama increased through the love duet of the first act, the one with Flora, where her first struggle against him finally yields with a love scene of intensity that with consummate art has also the spirit of reverence in it, to his final farewell at her bier when he kisses the dead lips upon which the outraged father has placed poisons to entrap him; and he also telling how high was his love to the noble husband, Manfred, who can but exclaim, "Of such great love that child-heart then was capable, not for me!"

There is a splendor in the voice of Baklanoff. His Manfred also was a superb dramatic figure. With a resonant flow of voice of richest and roundest timbre he sings this role as he did also the Puccini prologue with a wealth of tone of great beauty and color. It is his coming in the first act that forecasts the nobility of the tragedy of which that act is but the portion, and by that love can understand so well.

It is, though, around the helpless Archibaldo, given magnificently by Jose Mardones, basso, that the tragedy revolves. Fearing disloyalty to his son, the great king, he is told by Flora that no one is near, in his impotence he strangles her only to have to face the grief that is to be the unmitigated cause of his death also, for he, too, kisses the lips of the dead Flora and dies. The stunning music of the blind Archibaldo always precedes him and his flight is ably visualized. He is every inch a king and both kings and a recluse in the old man's superbly declamatory in monotone grippingly revealing the soul of him.

The Flaminio of Boscaccio disclosed a lovely tenor and was beautifully sung, which was true of the lesser parts by Maria Lara, Felix Clement, a rich contralto, and Bianca Baroja, the chorale, could not have been excelled. Conductor Morosoni held everything in perfect control and brought out with flow and crispness the richness of a beautiful score. Much gratitude is due Manager Max Rabino for giving a setting of the most artistic value in modern stagecraft. The three scenes by Joseph Urban with the atmosphere in the first act and the faultless art of the death scene were stage art at its best.

The School in Crinoline, the ballet given by Pavlova, Volinine, and some dozen of their Ballet Russe, presented a most striking and quaint picture in a most charming conventionalized setting, worked out in black and white, in striped effect, with but a touch of turquoise. It attests highly the artistic skill and originality of Mrs. Christian Hemmick, whose pantomime play was a dainty comedy of hoop-skirt days, which also was given by the same company. In an interlude that was a dream, a Florio, in most effective black and white, enters to find a fair Columbine awaiting him, and to the interlude, which the ballet is set, Pavlova and Volinine present a lovely "pas de deux." In keeping with the stage picture, Miss Pavlova was presented with a large bunch of Easter lilies set in a flower pot of black and white, with ribbon of the same, and with many visits.

DEATH RATE IN D. C. LOWEST ON RECORD

Modern Methods Responsible
For Saving 150,000 Lives
Last Year, Says Report.

The death rate in the District of Columbia and in the entire registration area of the United States in 1914 was the lowest ever recorded. The registration area comprises two-thirds of the population of the country, and shows a death rate 16 per cent lower than the average for the years 1901 to 1905.

The death rate of the District of Columbia also shows a decrease for both white and colored population from those of all previous years. A statement on the death rate of the registration area of the United States, made public by the Census Bureau today, shows that the District death rate has decreased 19 per cent from the average for the five-year period, 1901 to 1905. A decrease is shown of 21 per cent among the colored population, and of 14 among the white population.

Steady Decrease.
The death rate of the District of Columbia has decreased consistently year by year. The rate is higher than that for the registration area as a whole, largely because of the high rate among the colored population.

In 1914, 14,6 persons out of every 1,000 in the District of Columbia died. The figures for the total area were 13.6 out of each 1,000. Of the white population, 12.5 out of every 1,000 died, while among the colored population the rate was 23.6 out of every 1,000. Figures in the report were prepared by Richard C. Lapping, chief statistician of the Census for Vital Statistics. It is stated that there is a widespread and increasing interest throughout the country, especially in the South, with respect to vital statistics. Consequently there has been a big increase in the registration area. The report says: "The total number of deaths recorded in the registration area for the year 1914, corresponding to a death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population. This rate is the lowest on record, the most favorable year prior to 1914 having been 1912, for which the rate was 13.9.

150,000 Lives Saved.
"The death rate for 1914 is 16 per cent lower than the average for the five-year period 1901-1905. When due allowance is made for the addition of many new States to the registration area between 1905 and 1914, and the comparison is confined to the registration States as they existed during the period 1901-1905, there still is shown a decided decrease, amounting to 2.4 per cent. In other words, in a typical community in the registration area there were only ten deaths in 1914 where there were eleven a decade earlier. In the original registration States as they existed in 1901-1905, the population of which is about one-fourth of the total for the United States, the reduction in the rate is equivalent to a saving of about 25,000 lives in 1914. On the assumption that a corresponding reduction in the rate had taken place throughout the entire country, the saving would amount to about 150,000 lives in 1914 for the United States as a whole. This furnishes a statistical measure of the contribution made to civilization by medical science and improved sanitation.

Among the States for which death rates for 1901-1905 are given, the greatest proportion lives in the United States, 1914 is shown for Rhode Island—17.4 per cent. Next in order are New York, with a decrease of 1.8 per cent; New Jersey, 1.4 per cent; Massachusetts, 1.1 per cent; Vermont, 1.1 per cent; Connecticut, 1.1 per cent; Indiana, 1.1 per cent; Ohio, 1.1 per cent; New Hampshire, 1.1 per cent; Michigan, 1.1 per cent.

alone showed a slight increase—eight-tenths of 1 per cent.
"Among the cities of 100,000 or over the tendency is toward a still greater reduction in mortality. The following cities show a decrease of 25 per cent or more from the five-year period, 1901-1905 to 1914: Jersey City, 25.5 per cent; New York city, 25.8 per cent; San Francisco, 23.6 per cent; Denver, 23.3 per cent; Newark, N. J., 22.5 per cent; Pittsburgh, 21.9 per cent; Atlanta, 21.8 per cent; Los Angeles, 21.2 per cent; Lowell, Mass., 21.3 per cent; and Paterson, N. J., 20.1 per cent.

"It should be remembered that the rates here given are 'crude' rates, which make no allowance for differences in the sex and age distribution of the population, and that inferences in regard to the relative healthfulness of different States should not, therefore, be drawn without more thorough investigation."

D. C. RULERS' SCHOOL PLAN IS OPPOSED

Resolution Against Transfer of
Power Submitted to Parents'
League.

Opposition to the plan of the District Commissioners to take over from the Board of Education the administration of the schools was voiced by the Parents' League, an organization of the third division of public schools, at a meeting last evening in the J. Ormond Wilson Normal School, Dr. L. E. Keller introduced a resolution which commended the present arrangement of having board members named by judges of the Supreme Court of the District.

Dr. John Mes, of the American Peace Society, deplored the movement for increasing the armament of the United States. He lauded the peace efforts of W. J. Bryan.

The audience heard a program of songs, conducted by Dr. H. E. Cogswell, director of music in the schools.

Pistol Is As Empty As Man Who Would Pawn It

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Out of work, with his wife and two children needing food, Emanuel Scholz, thirty-five years, tried an old revolver out of his trunk and tried to pawn it in Third avenue.

The pawnbroker's clerk called Police

Captain McKewen, who arrested Scholz under the Sullivan law. Magistrate Murphy said in the Morrisania court that this was an instance in which the law worked a hardship. "I would like to discharge you," he said to the prisoner, "but the law compels me to hold you for special sessions. I shall fix the bail as low as possible—\$100." Scholz went to a cell.

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All sizes in tomorrow's sale at \$1.98. Other styles priced at \$2.98 up to \$3.98.

Gloves For Giving

Laurette Imported French Lambkin gloves, two-clasp style, in white, tan and black..... \$1.00

Women's English Cape Walking Gloves, one-clasp manish style, in perfect shades of tan, also black and white. Regular \$1.25 value..... \$1.00

"The Juvina" French Kid Gloves, two-clasp style, made of the finest selected skins obtainable. In black, white, tan, black with white and white with black stitching; all sizes..... \$1.50

10-button-length French Kid Gloves, made of the finest selected skins. In white only. All sizes..... \$3.50

Miscellaneous Two-clasp Glove Kid Gloves, in white and tan; also Cape and Mocha Gloves, lined or unlined. Gray and tan..... \$1.00

Women's French Kid Novelty Gloves, two-clasp style, with three rows of heavy crochet stitching; in black, white, tan, and gray..... \$2.00

Women's Mocha Gloves, one-clasp style; gray only. Worth \$1.00..... \$1.25

Boys' and Girls' Cape Gauntlet Gloves, fleece lined; black and tan; also Boys' Velour Gauntlets, with leather palms; all sizes..... 50c

Infants' and Children's All-wool Mittens, in white, cardinal, gray, brown, black, and navy..... 25c

Children's Cape Gloves, warmly lined; hemmed or fur tops; 50c in tan and gray..... 50c

Glove Dept.—Section No. 3—First Floor.

25c Nut Sets With This Coupon..... 12c

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Children's Umbrellas—Good quality Rainproof Gloria Covers—20, 22, 24 inch sizes, neatly made, Paragon steel frames. A large variety of pretty and durable handles, designed especially for little folks. Special at..... 59c

Umbrella Department—First Floor.

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Women's Real Seal Handbags, stylish shapes, in genuine seal leather, black and colors; leather-covered frames; inside color; also and mirror. Special at..... \$2.98

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Velvet Handbags, with the new shell frames; copies of the imported bags; newest shapes; wide tortoise shell frames; some with braided handles; silk lined. Special at..... \$1.48

The New Leather Muff Purses, flat shape with leather strap, convenient for carrying, with or without muff; real seal or India goat leather; silk lined. Ten pocket; \$1.50 values. Special at..... 98c

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New Lots of Dainty Gift Aprons at 25c & 50c

Late arrivals ready for tomorrow's Christmas buyers.

White Aprons, in round effects and dainty Tea Aprons of Swiss and dainty with lace and embroideries, others in the practical styles of fine lawn with and without bibs.

The best values in the city at 25c and 50c. Neatly boxed.

Third Floor.

Women's Bungalow Aprons, of extra quality gingham, in assorted colors. Made in open-back style; other styles of Percale in open front all sizes. Full cut and neatly finished. 50c value. Special at..... 39c

50c Child's Sets With This Coupon..... 19c

THIS COUPON AND 19c for Rogers Solid Nickel-silver Child's Set, consisting of Knife, Fork and Spoon, in a box, neat design. Guaranteed to give satisfactory wear. Basement. (C.)

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75c Sets of Six Teaspoons..... 50c

1.50c Sets of Six Teaspoons..... 1.19

1.50c Sets of Six Table Forks..... 1.19

1.50c Sets of Six Dessert Forks..... 1.08

1.50c Sets of Six Dessert Spoons..... 1.08

75c Gravy Ladles..... 49c

1.50c Soup Ladles..... 1.19

50c Cold Meat Forks..... 35c

35c Baby Spoons..... 25c

95c Child's Sets, three pieces..... 69c

2.00c Sets of Six Plain-handle Knives..... 1.49

2.00c Sets of Six Plain-handle Forks..... 1.49

Sensible Gifts for Juveniles

Girls' Rep Dresses, in pink, blue, and white; embroidered bolero jackets; white collars and cuffs; sizes 2 to 8 years. Worth \$1.25..... 98c

Children's Dresses, of rep and poplin, in pink, blue, and white; made with yokes and plaited skirts; some with smoking, others with embroidered straps and pockets; sizes 2 to 12 years. Regularly \$1.25..... 98c

Children's Coats, of chinilla, cloth and corduroy; well made and tailored. Special assortments at..... \$4.98 and \$5.98

Rain Caps, guaranteed rubberized sateen, in blue and red; also checks; plaid hoods; sizes 4 to 14 years..... \$1.98

Little Tot's Bath Robes, of beacon cloth; in pink, blue and tan; made with collars and pockets; sizes 1 to 3 years..... 50c

Children's Bath Robes, in pink, blue and Indian colors; satin trimmed and finished with heavy cord, sizes 2 to 6 years..... 98c

Children's New Wool Toggles, white and new colorings..... 49c

Children's Coats, of heavy chinilla, in gray only; made with velvet collars, pockets and belt; sizes 2 to 6 years..... \$2.98

Children's Dresses, for the little tot; neat colors and prettily trimmed in contrasting colors; sizes 2 to 6 years..... 49c

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